

jails. My home has been a day seldom passes that my family and I are not the victims of threats of death. I have been the victim of a near-fatal stabbing. So in a real sense I have been battered by the storms of persecution. I must admit that at times I have felt that I could no longer bear such a heavy burden, and have been tempted to retreat to a more quiet and serene life. But every time such a temptation appeared, something came to strengthen and sustain my determination. I have learned now that the Master's burden is light precisely when we take his yoke upon us.

My personal trials have also taught me the value of unmerited suffering. As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways that I could respond to my situation: either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course. Recognizing

the necessity for suffering I have tried to make of it a virtue. If only to save myself from bitterness, I have attempted to see my personal ordeals as an opportunity to transform myself and heal the people involved in the tragic situation which now obtains. I have lived these last few years with the conviction that unearned suffering is redemptive.

There are some who still find the cross a stumbling block, and others consider it foolishness, but I am more convinced than ever before that it is the power of God unto social and individual salvation. So like the Apostle Paul I can now humbly yet proudly say, "I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." The suffering and agonizing moments through which I have passed over the last few years have also drawn me closer to God. More than ever before I am convinced of the reality of a personal God.

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A Word About Dr. King and the Fellowship of Reconciliation

THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., is co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Dr. King was catapulted into national and international prominence in 1955-56 when he led a successful year-long nonviolent protest against segregated seating on buses in Montgomery, Alabama, where he served as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. He describes the protest movement in his widely circulated book, *Stride Toward Freedom*.*

Dr. King is a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a contributor to its magazine, *Fellowship*. This organization, founded in 1915 as a movement of Christian protest against war, has contributed significantly to the development and use of nonviolence in the United States. As early as the 1920s, its magazine (then called *The World Tomorrow*) carried articles by and about Mahatma Gandhi and his use of nonviolence in India and members of the Fellowship have pioneered in cracking the color line in the South and throughout the United States. The nonviolent sit-in campaigns that swept the South during the early months of 1960 had their forerunners in the Fellowship's "Journey of Reconciliation" of 1943 in which an interracial group of FOR members toured the South, pitting Christian love against un-Christian segregation laws and customs. In Northern cities, as early as 1942, the Fellowship organized nonviolent sit-in campaigns to remove racial restrictions in restaurants and other places of public accommodation. And in the 1960 sit-ins, members of the Fellowship played an important part, with Race Relations Secretary James M. Lawson Jr. providing leadership from his Nashville office. Between the Montgomery protest and the sit-ins, the Fellowship of Reconciliation conducted a number of seminars and workshops on nonviolence both at its headquarters and at key points in the South; it published and distributed 200,000 copies of a "comic book," *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*,† a handy flyer titled *How to Practice Nonviolence*, a motion picture, *Walk to Freedom*, and many other materials directly related to the theory and practice of nonviolence and redemptive love. A book published by the Fellowship has served as a textbook not only in the American nonviolent campaigns but also in the great Gandhian movement that brought India her independence. This book, *The Power of Nonviolence* by Richard B. Gregg (Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y. — \$1.00) was first published in 1935 and reprinted several times. The 1959 edition is thoroughly up-to-date and includes a foreword by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In addition to these and other materials, the FOR carries news reports and articles about nonviolent action, Christian pacifism and related concerns in *Fellowship*. A yearly subscription is \$3 (student rate \$2) for six 36-page issues supplemented with a Peace Information Edition appearing every other month.

For a free sample issue of *Fellowship* and a copy of the latest Fellowship Publications catalog, together with information about membership, write:

THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

Box 271

Nyack, New York

* Available in paperback edition at 50¢ and in a clothbound edition at \$2.95. Order from: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

† According to the *New Republic*, one of the students who took part in the very first of the 1960 sit-ins, in Greensboro, N.C., got the idea from this FOR "comic book."

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At 9:00 every Wednesday evening, beginning on September 18th, you can call (212) OXford 7-8506 and put your questions about the draft to a panel of experts. Your questions — and their answers — will be broadcast to listeners all over New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

John Andrew Sonneborn, Executive Secretary of the New York Fellowship for Reconciliation, has been counseling young men on the Selective Service since 1950. He heads a panel that also includes Harry Miles, a high school teacher and a member of the New York Fellowship's Executive Board, and a lawyer, who will handle the stickier details. These three people are prepared to answer almost any question about your draft status . . . and what you can do about it. What they don't know they'll find out.

Even if you don't have any pressing problems right now, it may pay to tune in and listen. You might find out something that even your draft board won't tell you!



Mighty blow

R.H., University of Auckland, New Zealand: Those who were injured or arrested during the demonstrations at the Chicago Democratic party convention have the sympathy of millions of people around the world. The demonstrations — and the brutality of the police — were given much publicity here and in other countries, and they have dealt a mighty blow to the prestige of the American government. We will not forget the photographs of courageous young people confronting troops, guns, and tear gas. Whatever the American ruling group may say, they know damned well that the American "image" in other countries has suffered an important defeat at Chicago, which all their embassies and information agencies will not be able to cover up.

Skin and the system

F. Donald Sawyer, Lansing, Mich: While studying the draft physical regulations recently, I came across these intriguing grounds for deferment:

"Any other chronic skin disorder of a degree or nature which . . . is so disfiguring as to make the individual objectionable in ordinary social relationships . . ."

"Tattoos on any part of the body which in the opinion of an examining physician are obscene or so extensive on exposed areas as to be considered unsightly . . ."

One is asked — shades of Arlo Guthrie! — if he's handsome enough to burn women and children without offending their sensibilities. Besides a slave dealer and a murderer, the draft examiner has become a censor. I for one would revel in stalking around the

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